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A New Form of *Crocidura suaveolens* (Pallas) from
Okinoshima, off Northern Kyushu, in
the Sea of Japan*

With 4 Text-figures

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(Communicated by Y. K. OKADA)

We take this opportunity to describe the following apparently new form of the genus *Crocidura*:

Crocidura suaveolens okinoshimae, subsp. nov.

The new Japanese name: Okinoshima-ko-jinezumi (Figs. 1-4)

Holotype.—Adult male in summer pelage, from Okinoshima (Lat. 34°14' N., Long. 136°6' E.), an islet in Genkai-nada, off Northern Kyushu. This islet is situated about 56 kilometers north of the cape of Fukuoka Prefecture and about 70 kilometers east of Tsushima Islands, in the Sea of Japan. It was collected by Mr. Yoshihiro Hirashima, an entomologist in the Faculty of Agriculture, Kyushu University, on June the 12th, 1955, and it is preserved in the same university.

Diagnosis.—Resembles *Crocidura suaveolens shantungensis* Miller (1901) (syn. *C. crocidura coreae* Thomas, 1906, and *C. longicauda* Mori, 1927) from Korea, but differs from it in having the upper parts decidedly darker, almost blackish brown instead of greyish brown or seal brown; underparts dark "light grey" instead of dirty greyish-white; upper surface of hands and feet being dark brown and not greyish-white; tail with a few long hairs at base only, not profusely haired to entire length as in the tail of *shantungensis*, even in summer pelage.

Skull with teeth.—Exactly similar to *shantungensis*, but the maximum length

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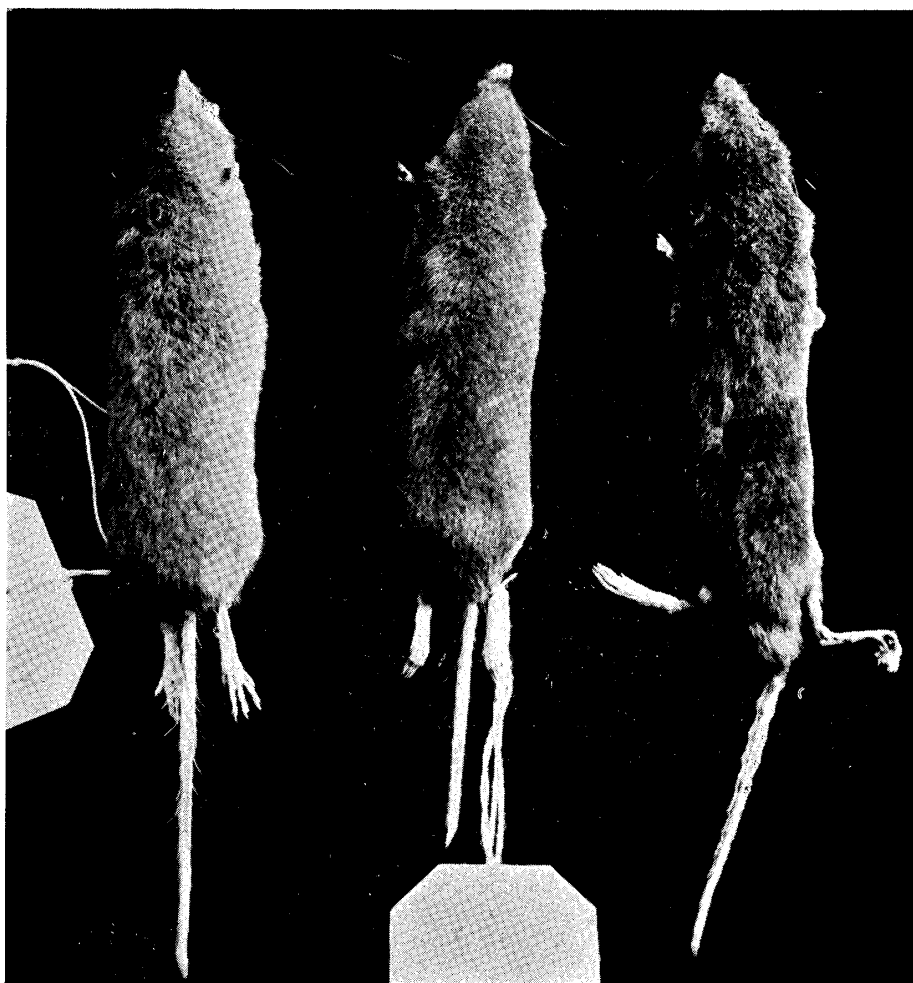


Fig. 1. Dorsal views of specimens of *Crocidura*. From left to right, *Crocidura suaveolens shantungensis* from Mokpo, S. Korea, Jan. 10, 1930 (Yamashina Mus. no. 139). Winter pelage. *C. suaveolens shantungensis* from Bampo, N. Korea, September 17, 1929 (Yamashina Mus. no. 136). Summer pelage. *C. suaveolens okinoshimae*, subsp. nov. (type), June 12, 1955 (Coll. Faculty of Agriculture, Kyushu University). Summer pelage.

of skull a trifle longer reaching 18.6 mm., against 16.4–18 mm. (17.1) in *shantungensis*.

Measurements of the type specimen (measured in skin): Head and body, ca. 66 mm.; tail, ca. 40; hind foot, 11.5; ear? T/HB=61.

Cranial measurements.—Maximum length (with i.), 18.6 mm.; basilar length (with i.), 16.6; condylobasal length (with i.), 18.4; maximum breadth, 8.3; inter-orbital breadth, 4.2; length of upper tooth row, 7.7; i^1 – p^1 , 3.5; length of lower tooth row, 7.2; length of lower jaw (with i.), 11.2 mm.

Habitat.—Confined to Okinoshima, off Northern Kyushu, in the Sea of Japan.

Remarks.—Among the several described forms of the Lesser White-toothed Shrew (*C. suaveolens*), this new darkest form (*okinoshimae*) seems to be very distinct in a series of *C. suaveolens shantungensis* from Korea and Manchuria.

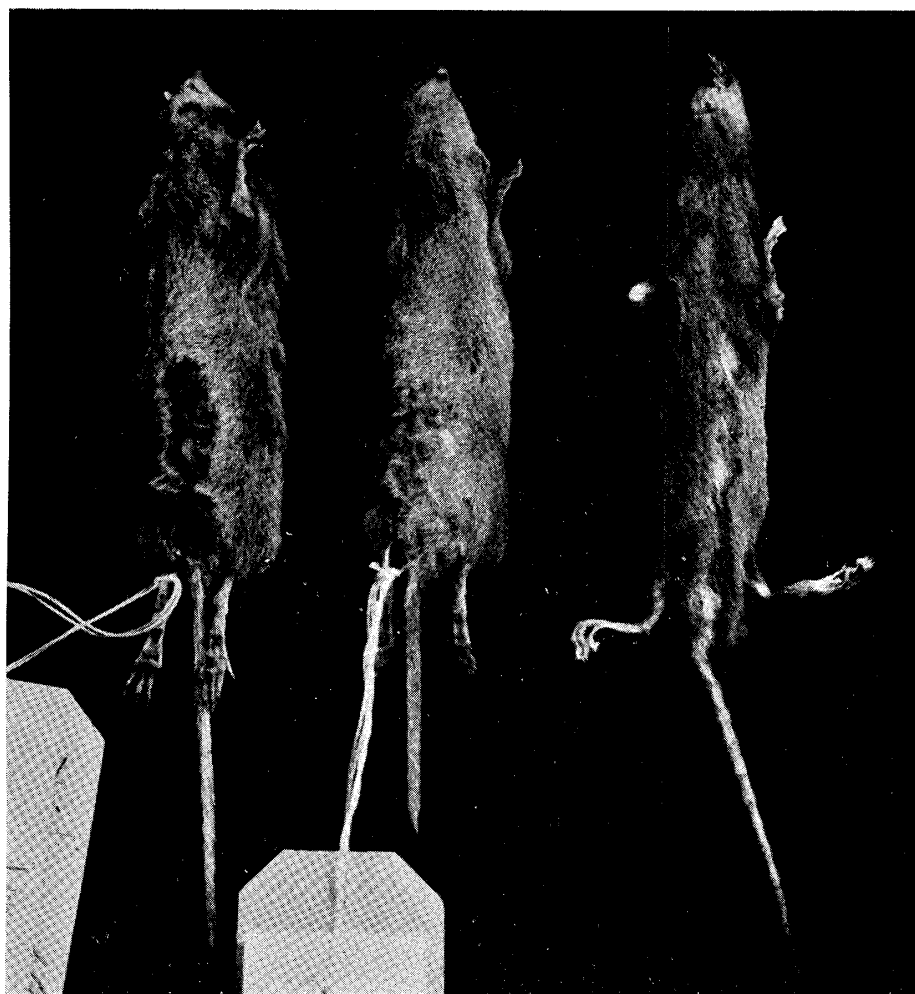


Fig. 2. Ventral views of the same specimens shown in Figure 1. From left to right, *Crocidura suaveolens shantungensis* from Mokpo, *C. s. shantungensis* from Bampo, *C. s. okinoshimae* from Okinoshima.

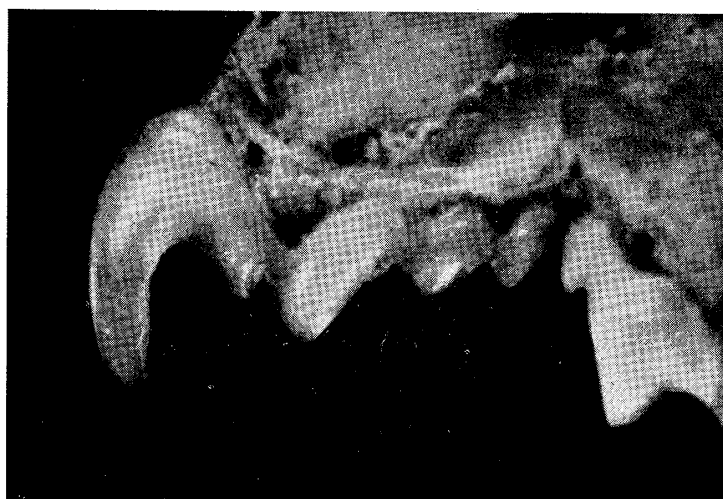


Fig. 3. Anterior upper tooth row of *C. s. okinoshimae* (holotype), enlarged. Showing the dentition of *suaveolens*-type. T. Uchida photo.

Thomas (1908) wrote that the examples of his *coreae* (= *shantungensis*) in Tsushima Islands might have been imported by vessels. Mr. Imaizumi, however, thinks that these small shrews must have been indigenous there since olden times, as he has obtained a few individuals of *C. russula*-group from one of the small islands in the Seven Islands of Izu, Japan. We agree with Mr. Imaizumi in all respects.



Fig. 4. Anterior upper tooth row of *C. russula dsi-nezumi* from Matsuyama City, Shikoku, enlarged. Showing the dentition of *russula*-type. For comparison. T. Uchida photo.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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